- 1 2. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 1 wherein said spilled material is mercury.
- 3. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 2 wherein said deformable substrate member
- with said coating of high affinity for said spilled material, is a structure of coated
- 3 members taken from the group of a contacting quantity of particles, woven and matted
- 4 filaments, metal powders and particle sponges.
- 4. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 3 wherein said deformable substrate member
- with said coating of high affinity for said spilled material, is a structure of coated metal
- members in at least one of particle or filamentary form and taken from the group of copper,
- 4 zinc and silver.
- 5. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 4 wherein said coating of a material having a
- 2 high affinity for said spilled material is gold.
- 6. (Canceled) In the transferring of spilled material through the use of an intermediate
- 2 absorber member for the spilled material,
- 3 the improvement comprising:
- 4 a deformable absorber member in a form of at least one of a contacting quantity of
- 5 particles and a filamentry arrangement and the interstices of said absorber being coated
- 6 with a thin coating of a material having a high affinity for said spilled material.
- 7. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 6 wherein said spilled material is mercury.

- 8. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 7 wherein said material having a high affinity
- 2 for said spilled material is gold.
- 9. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 8 wherein the material in said deformable
- 2 absorber are of metal taken from the group of copper, zinc and silver.
- 1 10. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 9 wherein said deformable absorber is at least
- 2 one braid of copper wires.
- 1 11. (Canceled) In the handling of spilled material through transfer from the spillage
- 2 location, the improvement comprising:
- 3 the use of a deformable absorber member with a thin surface coating of a material that
- 4 has a high affinity for said spilled material.
- 1 12. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 11 wherein said deformable absorber member
- 2 is at least one of a quantity of contacting particles and intertwined filaments that impart
- a wicking capability with respect to a spillage in liquid form.
- 1 13. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 12 wherein said deformable absorber
- 2 member is at least one braid of woven copper wires.
- 1 14. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 13 wherein said deformable absorber
- 2 member is contacting quantity of particles supported in an inert tubular holder.

- 1 15. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 12 wherein said spilled material is
- 2 mercury and said elements of said deformable absorber member are coated with gold.
- 1 16. (Currently amended) A transfer hand tool for the collection and transporting of a quantity
- 2 of spilled mercury from a spillage area comprising:
- 3 a deformable absorber serving as a spillage area contacting member, said member being
- 4 of a at least one material including selected from the group consisting of from
- 5 the group consisting of particles, woven filaments, metal powders and particle sponges, and,
- 6 a coating of gold on said contacting member on at least a portion contacting said spillage
- 7 area.
- 1 17. The process of collection and transporting of a quantity of spilled mercury from
- a spillage area comprising the steps of: providing a <u>deformable absorbable hand tool</u>
- 3 serving as a spillage area contacting member,
- 4 said member being formed of a at least one material including selected from the group
- 5 consisting of particles, woven and matted filaments, metal powders and particle
- 6 sponges, and said member having a deformable region and a contacting region and
- 7 having a coating of gold,
- 8 positioning said member with said deformable area in contact with said spillage area,
- 9 and, moving said member over said spillage area. --

If there are any charges associated with the filing of this response, the Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account 50-0510. If required, Applicant hereby petitions for a one

A "Change of Correspondence Address" on behalf of the undersigned is enclosed. Please address all further correspondence to the undersigned at the address listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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I hereby certify that this paper is being telefaxed to (703) 872-9306 on the date indicated below addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Signature /

Date: September 14, 2004